

Appl No. 09/853,913
Amdt. dated September 7, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 13, 2006

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10-20, 25-27, 30-32, and 35-37 were pending. Upon entry of this amendment, which amends claims 10, 15, 20, 30-32, and 35-37, claims 10-20, 25-27, 30-32, and 35-37 remain pending. Claims 10-19, 30, 31, 35 and 36 stand objected to. Claims 20, 25-27, 32 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants aver that no new matter is introduced in this response.

Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 10, 15, 20, 30-32, and 35-37 due to the formatting of the phrase "the product k_d " which is formatted as "the product k_d ," in the specification as filed. Applicants have amended the claims accordingly, and believe the objections are now moot.

§112 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 20, 25-27, 32, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for lack of antecedent basis for the term "the product of M and d_i and the d_i values". Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly recite the claimed subject matter, and believe that the rejections are now moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 10-19, 30, 31, 35, and 36 are allowable if rewritten to fix the claim objections and that claims 20, 25-27, 32, and 37 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



C. Bart Sullivan
Reg. No. 41,516

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
CBS:rgy
60851474 v1